

---

**SECTION 9.7**

---

**PUBLIC FACILITIES and SERVICES**

Public facilities and services are provided by Town government, local schools, and volunteers (such as the fire department, Ambulance Corp, etc), and include municipal infrastructure pertaining to water and sewer services. Financial support and funding for public facilities and services can come from local, county and state tax revenues, grants, donations and in-kind donations of services, or can come from developers of residential and non-residential projects.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES GOALS**

- ☐ **Allow infrastructure growth in areas where it is lacking, while maintaining respect for the overall density and preferred development patterns in the Town.**
- ☐ **Improve Town services and the accessibility of the Town's buildings, government officials and services to the public.**
- ☐ **Support the consolidation of Town and Village services, as appropriate.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

- ★ ***Continued and increased pro-active communication between the Town and the school districts, particularly in regard to evaluating the need for, and location of, any new school facilities within the Town.***

Currently redistricting and new improvements are expected to provide adequate capacity to accommodate anticipated growth. However, the Town should keep an open dialogue with the school systems, particularly the Valley Central School District, by participating in long range studies and evaluations and keeping the districts apprised of any significant demographic or land uses changes that may affect school planning and design. Potential lands for future schools or school-related uses should be identified in coordination with schools.

The Town should examine the Agricultural Education Program (implemented in the Warwick Valley Central School District to help provide trained people to work in local agriculture or related vocations) for its potential benefit to the Town and potentially encourage school districts to implement a similar plan.

★ ***Potential impacts on schools from new residential and commercial development should be evaluated and appropriate mitigation measures proposed.***

As development continues, the approving body (i.e., Town Board, Planning Board, etc) responsible for reviewing such projects should consider potential impacts on area schools that may result from the implementation of the project (both residential and non-residential). Appropriate mitigation measures for any impacts should be identified and required to be completed. Such analyses should be conducted with the intent of identifying impacts on the following areas:

- Building and Facility Capacity;
- District Staffing; and
- Traffic Flow.

★ ***Town Government***

The Town's municipal offices are adequately sized and located. It is anticipated that access to general town services information and local government officials will be vastly improved with the introduction the Town of Montgomery website that is currently under development. Once in operation, a website that is regularly maintained and enhanced as the funds and needs arrive, provide citizens with free and convenient access to information that may otherwise be procured by phone call or visitation. To that end, an informative and well-designed website can reduce pressures on both clerical and professional staff. It is also a significant way to increase communication with citizens and to promote the Town's image and goals beyond the local level.

Capital improvement projects implemented by the Town should be sensitive to the recommendations of the Plan, particularly with regard to siting and design.

Encourage and facilitate training, and where appropriate, require certification and re-certification of elected and appointed Town government members. Continued quality enforcement practices and code requirements relating thereto should also be encouraged.

The Town should also study the feasibility and fiscal benefits of sharing code enforcement officer(s) and other government services with interested adjacent municipalities.

### ★ **Water and Sewer Service**

The Town and its Villages, acknowledge that sewer and water infrastructure improvements and upgrades are needed to existing facilities to accommodate projected, and in some instances, existing growth. However, Town residents have expressed desires to maintain rural densities, noting that limiting central sewer services is one way of accomplishing such. Cooperation between the Town and the Villages in expanding or increasing facility capacities is recommended by this Plan, which encourages concentrating future residential developments near the Villages.

As discussed in Section 9.1, Residential land use recommendations, public infrastructure improvements such as road improvements, infrastructure capacity upgrades, etc., should be completed by developers of new subdivisions and commercial developments.

#### Wastewater Treatment

- New development should either include on-site individual septs or connect into one of the four existing wastewater treatment plants within the villages and Town. However, any connection to an existing wastewater treatment plant should only be permitted provided that the plant is capable of handling the additional flow and provided that the physical plant is operating within its SPDES permit and all other applicable regulations. Connection to an existing wastewater treatment plant should not be assumed as being acceptable, particularly those within the villages, without prior analysis regarding its capacity and operating adequacy as noted above, and without the direct interest of the applicable plant jurisdiction.
- Existing wastewater treatment plant facilities should be maintained in a fully functioning and properly operating manner. No overloads or stresses should be considered acceptable at any time. It is recommended that no new large wastewater treatment plants be constructed serving multiple projects in the Town.
- New development should first consider new and innovative alternatives to sewage and septic disposal systems. Improved packaging technology providing a high quality outflow/tertiary treatment should be utilized where accepted by State and County Health Departments. However, such facilities should be limited in scale and scope of coverage area, but not serving multiple projects in the Town.
- As development progresses within the Town and Villages, both the short- and long-term assimilative capacities of the Wallkill River need to be analyzed.

#### Water

As the majority of the Town's residents will continue to rely on individual water supply wells, protection of aquifer resources and surface and groundwater quality should maintain a high priority status. As required, a second water supply well should be

developed for the Lake Vue Water District.

Well head protection should be incorporated into future developments and existing well sources as appropriate. The Town should continue to participate in voluntary water quality improvement actions at the government level and should consider public education outreach options (such as through a website) on water quality preservation and conservation methods and practices.

### ★ *Emergency Services*

Given the overlapping state and county police jurisdictions and the expense to the villages of each maintaining a police department and dispatch office, the Town, in coordination with the villages, should conduct a detailed evaluation on police department consolidation to supplement the study completed in 1984. Consolidation can reduce resident confusion of jurisdictional boundaries and potentially reduce tax burdens.

Fire protection needs should be reviewed in greater detail in conjunction with proposed developments and the recommendations for development locations of this Plan, to determine the adequacy of the number of facilities, their locations and the equipment available. The Town's building department needs to continue to ensure that new and existing developments provide appropriate access and fire safety measures.

